

## **COMMUNITY UPDATE**

### **Removal Program**

#### **BCF Oil Site**

#### **Brooklyn, New York**

375489



**January 2001**

#### **What is EPA doing at the BCF Oil Site?**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cleanup crews are at the abandoned BCF Oil Refining site at 360-362 Maspeth Avenue in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York stabilizing improperly stored hazardous substances to prevent an uncontrolled release of the material into the environment. In the initial stages of the action, EPA is maintaining around-the-clock security to restrict public access to the former waste oil processing facility.

#### **Site Background**

BCF ceased operations in August 1994 after polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in all of the 16 large above and below ground storage tanks on the property. (PCBs are a chemical compound commonly used in electric power equipment whose manufacture EPA has phased out under the regulation of the Toxic Substance Control Act and is classified as a probable carcinogen.) After the discovery of PCBs, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) took measures to prevent discharge of the hazardous material into the English Kill, a canal adjacent to the site. The U.S. Coast Guard also took action to prevent the release of the material into the canal.

In 1995, NYSDEC did not renew BCF's permit to operate. BCF maintained security and paid for contractors to monitor and investigate the extent and nature of the contamination in the soils on the site, in the tanks, the groundwater and nearby surface waters. These reports were submitted to NYSDEC, including a plan to properly close the site in December 1999.

In March 2000, NYSDEC asked EPA to evaluate the site for a possible Superfund action. Superfund is the federal program to address hazardous waste sites. In May 2000, after notifying EPA, BCF terminated

security and maintenance personnel at the site. Because the site was effectively abandoned, EPA was able to take over the security of the site and make preparations to clean it up using the federal Superfund.

#### **What are the next steps?**

Over the next several weeks, EPA will be conducting sampling and analyses (waste profiling) of all materials in the storage tanks. EPA estimates it will take at least six months to complete the removal, transport and off-site disposal of the hazardous material at the site.

#### **Public Participation**

The agency will issue these fact sheets on a periodic basis to update the public on the progress of the cleanup. EPA has established an information repository at the Brooklyn Public Library at 396 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York 11231 where members of the community can review documents related to EPA's activities at the site. If you have questions or would like additional information about the site, please contact:

Nicole Seltzer  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Communications Division  
290 Broadway, Floor 26  
New York, New York 10007-1866  
(212) 637-3677  
(800) 346-5009 toll-free

#### **Superfund Ombudsman**

EPA, Region 2 has designated an ombudsman as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express their concerns or register complaints about Superfund.  
Toll-free 888-283-7626